

# serra mesa observer

PUBLISHED BY THE SERRA MESA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

VOLUME 27, ISSUE 5 SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2013

## A LONG AWAITED HIT SERRA MESA'S CONCERT IN THE PARK



[www.SerraMesa.org](http://www.SerraMesa.org)

You are invited to participate in the  
**Serra Mesa Community Council**  
Wednesday, September 25  
6:30 pm  
Serra Mesa - Kearny Mesa Library  
Community Room, 9005 Aero Drive

**Serra Mesa Community Council**  
Wednesday, October 23  
6:30 pm  
Serra Mesa - Kearny Mesa Library  
Community Room, 9005 Aero Drive

Neighborly People  
and Friendly Businesses  
Living and Working Together

For the success story see page 16

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Andrea Eaton.....(858) 565-2473\*  
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*Community Events*  
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*Education*  
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*Community Maintenance*  
Annemieke Frost Hutchinson.....(858)565-2473\*  
*Neighborhood Watch*  
Tom Leech.....(858)565-2473\*  
*Current Issues*  
Cindy Moore.....(858)565-2473\*  
*Special Projects*  
Todd Parsley.....(858)565-2473\*  
*Small Business Coordinator*  
Elizabeth Rice .....(858)565-2473\*  
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*Friends of Ruffin Canyon*  
Melissa Cima.....(858)565-2473\*  
*Observer Staff/Education*  
Myra Webb.....(858)565-2473\*  
*Subscription Records*  
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Marge Demas.....(858)565-2473\*  
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Cindy McIntyre, Marvin Sloben.....(858)565-2473\*  
*Observer Staff*

*\*Contact by calling (858) 565-2473 & leaving a message.*

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**Articles, Ideas, & Upcoming Events for the Observer** are welcome. Editor reserves right to edit articles. Council doesn't endorse ads.

For articles, email Ronda Adams - rondakadams@msn.com  
For subscriptions and ads, call (858) 565-2473

**Deadline:** November / December Edition...October 19th

P.O. Box 23315, San Diego, CA, 92193  
<http://www.serramesa.org>  
[communitycouncil@serramesa.org](mailto:communitycouncil@serramesa.org)

**SERRA MESA COMMUNITY GROUPS**

Serra Mesa Community Council (858) 565-2473  
e-mail: [communitycouncil@serramesa.org](mailto:communitycouncil@serramesa.org)  
Serra Mesa Planning Group (858) 565-2473  
e-mail: [smpg@serramesa.org](mailto:smpg@serramesa.org)

**ELECTED OFFICIALS**

Board of Education Kevin Beiser (619) 725-5550  
City Councilmember Scott Sherman (619) 236-6677  
Mayor Intermim Todd Gloria (619) 236-6330  
County Supervisor Ron Roberts (619) 531-5544  
State Assemblymember Toni Atkins (619) 645-3090  
State Senator Marty Block (619) 645-3133  
Governor Jerry Brown (619) 525-4641  
U.S. Representative Duncan Hunter (619) 448-5201  
U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein (619) 231-9712

**CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS**

Sept 10	Friends of Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library 5:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Sudberry Room
Sept 11	Serra Mesa Recreation Center Council Meeting 6:30 p.m., 9020 Village Glen Drive
Sept 19	Serra Mesa Planning Group 7 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Room
Sept 23	Friends of Ruffin Canyon 6:30 p.m., Taft Middle School, 9191 Gramercy Dr.
Sept 25	Serra Mesa Community Council 6:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Oct 5	Friends of Ruffin Canyon Cleanup 9:00 a.m., Shawn Avenue entrance to Ruffin Canyon
Oct 17	Serra Mesa Planning Group 7 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Room
Oct 23	Serra Mesa Community Council 6:30 p.m., Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, Community Rm
Oct 28	Friends of Ruffin Canyon 6:30 p.m., Taft Middle School, 9191 Gramercy Dr
Nov 2	Friends of Ruffin Canyon Cleanup 9:00 a.m., Shawn Avenue entrance to Ruffin Canyon

*Serra Mesa Enhancement Committee meetings - write to P.O. Box 23315, San Diego, CA, 92193.*

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



On Sunday, August 11th, The Serra Mesa Community celebrated a neighborhood event called "Concert in the Park" from 11AM to 3PM. What an incredible event. The band was Serra Mesa's own "The Sier's Brothers" and let me tell you, they had something for everyone. We had a playground adjacent to where we gathered for the little ones, we had plenty of room for the youngsters to run and throw balls or play tag. Moms and dads brought lawn chairs and canopies. I can say without reservation that everyone had a great time. Things like that don't just happen, they are planned. Thanks to our great sponsors Greyling Dental Group and the Chargers our expenses were covered. Our great special planning group led by Debbie Campbell, along with Annemieke Frost Hutchinson, Liz Rice, and Andrea Eaton is to be congratulated for the event of the year. What better time to tell you about our next community event that is Movie in the Park on Saturday, September 21. The movie will be Rio which will start at 7:00 PM and we will have a pizza truck available on site at 5:00 PM which is Cabrillo Park for your dining pleasure. The evening is planned for your enjoyment and at no cost to attendees. Sounds like a great evening, please put it on your calendar now!

In looking back at "Concert in the Park" it was amazing how many people were there because they heard of it through social media. People were advising their friends on Facebook, posting the event on Nextdoor.com, the "Observer", and pamphlets passed around

businesses in the area. If you did not hear about it, you need to get connected. It is really easy to get in the know and Nextdoor.com is a wonderful way to do that. You can join by going online and signing up the source will assign you the neighborhood you live in. (For instance, my area is Central Serra Mesa). We are currently working on a website that will allow you to visit the home page then be directed to all the happenings in Serra Mesa. Once you are connected to Nextdoor.com you will get messages from people in your neighborhood who have questions, are selling items, are looking for information, and generally asking or advising about things going on. Please note that this is not a reporting service for thefts or robberies, those should be directed to the non-emergency police number (858) 495-7900. Please only use (911) for emergencies or crimes in progress. It is my goal to make sure every Serra Mesan knows about Next Door.com and signs up.

I know everyone knows about our great library. Board member Jackie Ander is the Community Council's liaison to the library and has advised us that there are many programs that are put on by the library for our community. Once again, knowing about these programs is easy when you are connected. You can connect by going online at [www.serramesa.org](http://www.serramesa.org), clicking on Community Council, clicking on Observer and scroll down to, "Serra Mesa Branch Library". There, our librarian lists events by calendar dates. Did you know that there is Zumba Dance/Toning programs, Serra Mesa Book Club, Friends of the Library Meetings, Music on the Mesa, E-reader clinic, Job finding and marketing programs, Folk Song Society and more? Looking for something to do with children? We have Pre-school Storytime, Summer Reading Programs, and Music Time for Kids with Cowboy Bob, pre-school craft, Magic shows, and much much more. Remember that books are for sale at fabulous prices and all goes to support our library.

If you would like to have the Observer delivered to you in hard copy, there is a form to fill out in the Observer which for \$15.00 to cover our cost gives you a year's worth or 6 copies of the Observer. Most of us prefer a hard copy for reference each month so we can stay in the know.

As schools will be starting, make sure you observe the school speed zones and watch for kids to and from school. Remember that we need to stop when school buses are pulled over to pick up or drop off kids. When the sign on the driver's side is out, it means stop until it is withdrawn. We hope all have enjoyed our summer and the wonderful weather we have had.

If you would like to become a board member of Community Council, Planning Group, Recreation Council, Friends of the Library, or Friends of Ruffin Canyon, we would be happy to include you. Call us at (858) 565-2473 and leave a message. Or email us at: [communitycouncil@serramesa.org](mailto:communitycouncil@serramesa.org).

#### GET CONNECTED!

Carl Demas

2013 Community Council President

### **SERRA MESA FOOD PANTRY**

After being opened 3 years we have seen many people come to the pantry and heard many of their stories and have been blessed by some of these people in ways that we could not imagine. We have never shared any of their stories and with her permission, I would like to share Peggy's story.

Peggy first contacted us through an email she sent through our website and we will never forget her subject line: do you feed the homeless in Serra Mesa? Needless to say this line got our attention right away. We were aware of people struggling to put food on the table and we began to learn all of the reasons people would come to the pantry to get help: loss of a job, illness, divorce, or just not enough income. In Peggy's case as we learned over the weeks, she had been evicted from her apartment, lost her job and was unable to live with family or friends. She began living on the streets and because of her school (she still goes to school) she chose to live in Serra Mesa. Peggy's story is inspiring because even though all the hardship, she has overcome many obstacles. She has a shelter (God's Extended Hand) now in downtown San Diego, still no permanent home. She still gets food from the pantry to help her during the days when she is not near the shelter in downtown San Diego. She now volunteers at the pantry on Wednesdays and she has also started to volunteer at Feeding America San Diego, where there is probably an opportunity for a paying job with them. She has joined a local church Mission Village Christian Fellowship where she attends regularly.

Thank you to all of you who have helped us in so many ways. We could not do it without the support of this community that cares so much. We have been blessed also with the most caring and amazing volunteers.

Thank you also to The Rock, Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Mission Village Christian Fellowship and the Serra Mesa Community Council for all your help and support.

Luisa Johnson

Serra Mesa Food Pantry Manager

### **GETHSEMANE PRESCHOOL ANNOUNCES NEW DIRECTORS**

Gethsemane Christian Preschool celebrated its 30th anniversary on Saturday, August 17, with over 150 students, alumni, family members, staff, and church members. At the same event, Lee Bergeron, the founding and now, newly retired Director was recognized for her service. Gethsemane selected long time teachers and Assistant Directors, Vicki Coffee (24 years) and Becky Ackerman (22 years), as Co-Directors effective August 2013. If you missed the celebration, you are welcome to stop by and congratulate or meet Vicki and Becky.

As of late August, there were a few openings. Call 858-277-7710 to inquire as of today's status.

**NEW North City Campus**  
 Campus of Excellence for Business  
 and Information Technology

Free classes begin **September 3, 2013**  
 visit [sdce.edu](http://sdce.edu) for class schedule



## Serra Mesa Recreation Center

9020 Village Glen Dr.  
 (858) 573-1408

1:00 - 8:00 p.m., Monday, Tuesday, Thursday  
 1:00 - 9:00 p.m.. Wednesday  
 2:00-6:00 p.m., Friday  
 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Saturday  
 Closed Sunday.

Community Sports Information:  
 A.Y.S.O. Soccer: (858) 268-5880  
 N.Y.S. Soccer : (858) 973-6101  
 SD United Soccer: (858) 457-4625  
 Serra Mesa Senior Softball:  
 (858) 279-4283  
 Serra Mesa Little League: (858) 279-8361

Serra Mesa Recreation Council meets on  
 September 11th at 6:30pm

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# Questions you should ASK before hiring a Tax Preparer...



- Are you available all year? **YES!**
- Can you prepare military taxes? **YES!**
- Can you prepare other state returns? **YES!**
- Can you handle my business taxes? **YES!**
- Can I meet you before I decide? **YES!**



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*Work with your neighbor who knows the neighborhood.*  
Jason LaMell - Serra Mesa resident

**Gethsemane Lutheran Church**

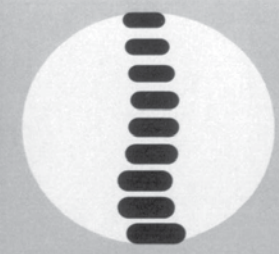
 Gloria Espeseth  
Pastor

www.gethsemanesd.org

2696 Melbourne Drive      Worship 9:30am  
San Diego, CA 92123      (858) 277-6572



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**IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS**


Abandoned Vehicles & Police Non-Emergency	(619) 531-2000
Airport Noise - Montgomery Airfield	(858) 573-1436
Animal Control	(858) 236-4250
Bus & Trolley Schedules	(619) 233-3004
Canyon Cleanup	(619) 533-4411
Child Abuse Hotline	(858) 560-2191
City Clerk - Docket Information	(619) 533-4000
Crime - General Business	(619) 531-2000
Crime Stoppers	(619) 235-8477
Dead Animal Removal	(858) 492-5060
Emergency Information - Earthquake	(858) 565-3490
Fire Department - Non-emergency	(619) 533-4300
Flies & Vermin	(858) 694-2888
Graffiti	(619) 525-8522
Hazardous Chemicals & Waste	(858) 694-7000
Health Violations	(619) 338-2222
Kearny High Alumni Association	(619) 699-0886
Litter - City Owned/Private Property	(858) 492-5055
Meals On Wheels	(619) 260-6110
Neighborhood Code Compliance	(619) 236-5500
Barking Dogs, Code Violations, Noise, Safety	
Police Department - Eastern Division	(858) 495-7900
Post Office	(800) 275-8777
Poison Control Center	(800) 876-4766
Rape /Domestic Violence Hotline	(858) 272-1767
RSVP (Retired Seniors Volunteer Patrol)	(858) 495-7990
Senior Citizen Services	(619) 236-6905
Serra Mesa Library	(858) 573-1396
Serra Mesa Recreation Center	(858) 573-1408
Sidewalk Repair	(619) 527-7500
Stadium Manager	(619) 641-3101
Stadium Security & Noise	(619) 641-3150
Stolen Property/Bicycles - To Report	(619) 531-2000
Storm Drain Misuse	(619) 235-1000
Street Repair - Faded signs, pavement	(619) 527-7500
Traffic Signal Maintenance	(619) 527-8650
Water Leaks - City & Private	(619) 515-3525
Weeds	(619) 533-4444
Zoning/Permits - Questions &Violations	(619) 446-5000

**SERRA MESA  
ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE**

Please send any code compliance complaints that you would like SMEC to pursue to P.O. Box 23315, San Diego, CA 92193 or serramesaenhancementcommittee@hotmail.com. Our procedure is to send letters to the resident asking for voluntary compliance. We send letters for excessive litter, excessive weeds, graffiti, illegally parked vehicles, illegal signs, and other violations (e.g., noise, fences, home business) on an as needed basis.

**FRIENDSHIP LUNCH OPEN TO THE  
COMMUNITY**


Gethsemane Lutheran Church and Mission Village Christian Fellowship offer the Serra Mesa community a soup, bread, and dessert lunch every Wednesday at noon. The "Friendship Lunch" with no age limitations is at MVCF in the even months (i.e. October) and at Gethsemane in the odd months (i.e. September). There is no cost but all are invited to bring a can or package of food for the Serra Mesa Food Pantry. The churches are located at 2696 and 2650 Melbourne Drive. More information at 858-277-6572 or 858-278-2633.



**MISSION VILLAGE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP**

<p>2650 Melbourne Drive San Diego, CA 92123 858.278.2633 (office) 858.278.3330 (fax) <a href="mailto:missionvillage1@sbcglobal.net">missionvillage1@sbcglobal.net</a> <a href="http://www.servants4jesus.com">www.servants4jesus.com</a> or <a href="http://www.mvcf.net">www.mvcf.net</a></p> <p>Carl Baker, Pastor</p>	<p><b>Sunday Worship Service</b> 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Adult Sunday School 8:30 a.m. Children's Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Prayer Meeting—Tuesday 7:00 p.m. Youth Group—Wednesday 6:30p.m. Women's Bible Study &amp; Home Fellowship Groups at Various times</p>
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We pray for peace and well-being of the Serra Mesa community



**St. Columba Parish**  
3327 Glencolum Drive  
San Diego, CA 92123  
(858) 277-3863


Sunday Mass	7:30, 9:30 & 11:00 a.m., 5:30 p.m.
Saturday	8:00 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.
Mon. - Fri.	7:00 a.m.
Holy Days	Please call the church for schedule


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**JONES PRIMETIME PERFORMS MUSICAL TO TEACH STUDENT BODY ABOUT SCIENCE**

On July 11th, at the request of school principal, Rita Powell, the PrimeTime program at Jones Elementary School put on a production of the “Space School Musical” for the entire student body. Approximately 75 PrimeTime student participated in the event after practicing for several months.

The Space School Musical is a program developed by NASA’s Discovery Program as part of the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) curriculum movement in education across the United States. This was the first time a SAY site brought NASA’s entire Space School Musical to a school! Utilizing performing arts to teach children about outer space and science was a huge success at Jones PrimeTime!

**MEMORABLE SERRA MESA SCENES – DO YOU RECOGNIZE THEM?**

By Tom Leech

Serra Mesa has some special scenes -- buildings, objects, places, gardens -- that readily catch your eye when you see them. That is, IF you see them. This series started in the July-August Observer, with the lineup of stacked sculptural rocks to be found at the west end of Sandrock. How about this one? It's a labrynth made from rocks laid out in a design for strolling around and perhaps contemplating what life is about. Know where it is?

For the answer, go to page 17.



**THE GENEROSITY OF A COMMUNITY**  
**MAKING A DIFFERENCE WITH THE SERRA MESA FOOD PANTRY**

The Serra Mesa and Mission Village community has shown an amazing amount of generosity through The Serra Mesa Food Pantry [www.serramesafoodpantry.org](http://www.serramesafoodpantry.org). This has come through the community not just as a willingness to help, but a strong desire to make a difference in the lives of others. In Serra Mesa, as in most communities, some are in need of a little help. Perhaps there is a choice between necessary medications and food, or a temporary or other financial challenge. With help from churches, community events, residents, businesses, organizations, people volunteering to lend a hand, and many others, the pantry assisted 153 households in the month of July. Important resources such as “Feeding America” and “The San Diego Food Bank” make it possible to obtain bread and produce at no charge, and also food staples at a discounted rate. One example of this generosity is The Serra Mesa Community Garden and Orchard, which donated over 650 pounds of produce in the month of July. The garden is a wonderful addition to the community. For some gardeners, it is a way to teach children where food comes from, and the value of hard work and giving. Many others enjoy learning about and growing organic vegetables in a community setting. Some members grow solely to give to others. Another example in July was the community event, “Concert in the Park”, which featured “The Siers Brothers” and held a very successful food drive. Mark your calendar for the September 21<sup>st</sup> event, “Movie in the Park”, which will also be holding a food drive to benefit the Serra Mesa Food Pantry. Did you know that the pantry accepts donations of fruit from neighborhood trees? It may be difficult to bring these items solely during hours that the pantry is open. Because of this, Gethsemane Lutheran Church, located at 2696 Melbourne Drive, will now be accepting these donations during Preschool hours 7am to 6pm, Monday through Friday.



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## **ST. COLUMBA SCHOOL CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION IN 2013**

Are you Alumni? Parishioners? Neighbors? Find out how you can support St. Columba. Three easy ways to stay connected to St. Columba Church and school.

Go to:

[www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) search for St Columba Catholic School for current events and alumni.

[www.st.columbaschoolsd.org](http://www.st.columbaschoolsd.org) for the school website.

[www.stcolumbasandiego.com](http://www.stcolumbasandiego.com) for the church website.




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## **CUBBERLEY ELEMENTARY**

Greetings Serra Mesa Community:

Welcome to the new 2013-2014 school year! We are very excited about welcoming our new and returning students and families to Cubberley. This will also be our first year for Transitional Kindergarten program to begin.

We are proudly establishing Cubberley as a School of Science and Arts. We are developing our programs to focus on Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM)

- **FOSS Science Academy School**

The San Diego FOSS Academy is a unique opportunity for schools in San Diego Unified School District to develop science-centered schools teaching Common Core State Standards in Language Arts (ELA) and Math using FOSS, our district's research-based science program developed by the Lawrence Hall of Science, University of Berkley and the National Science Foundation.

- **First Lego League (FLL) Robotics Team**

FLL combines the engineering challenge of a robotics competition with real-world problem solving and inventing. Students learn science and technology skills at the same time as valuable employment and life skills.

- **ART CORPS™**

Art Corps is a comprehensive, developmental curriculum, which teaches art fundamentals by bringing process oriented hands-on art experiences to the classroom.

We are happy to extend an open invitation to our community! You are welcome to visit, to volunteer, to share your time and talents with our students.

Sincerely,

Rosemary Cruz  
Principal

## **SERRA MESA PLANNING GROUP NEWS**

The Serra Mesa Planning Group (SMPG) is officially recognized by the City and makes recommendations on land use issues to the City. Bob Crider was elected to SMPG at the July 18th meeting. He lives near Taft Middle School, has experience with real estate, and is very interested in planning issues. Dave Dalton has volunteered and will be elected at the September 19th meeting. Our thanks to both of these individuals for volunteering!

There is one vacancy which SMPG needs to fill to remain in good standing. Anyone who is at least 18 years old, affiliated with the community as a property owner, resident of Serra Mesa, or a local Serra Mesa business person and who has attended two SMPG meetings is eligible to be elected. If you have an interest or an expertise in areas related to building, landscaping, environment, or planning, SMPG needs you. The City provides training. See <http://www.sandiego.gov/planning/community/resources/cow/index.shtml>.

SMPG meets the third Thursday of the month, 7 pm, at the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library, 9505 Aero Drive. The next meetings are September 19 and October 17. To contact us, email [smpg@serramesa.org](mailto:smpg@serramesa.org).

### **Summary of July 18 Meeting**

**Capital Improvement Projects for Serra Mesa for next fiscal year:** SMPG reaffirmed their support of the list that was submitted to the City in October 2012:

- Former Serra Mesa Library Building on Sandrock Road be re-used. Suggestions were historical model railroad center, senior center, childcare, and community center. A presentation was made on July 18 by a couple interested in the old library building being converted to an historical model railroad museum. SMPG decided that we need to ascertain the condition of the building and solicit input from the community on the reuse of the building.
- A sidewalk or paved pathway for the roadway from Mission Village to the Qualcomm Stadium Trolley Station.
- Cardinal Road in the Birdland area widened to relieve traffic congestion.
- Improved irrigation system for Cabrillo Heights Park, using re-cycled water, if possible to improve field conditions.
- Construct median improvements and new welcome signs for our community.

### **Agenda for September 19 Meeting**

AeaLAS Project Conditional Use Permit (CUP) – The Guild Mortgage Building, across from Taft Middle School at 9160 Gramercy Drive was sold. The owner is asking for a conditional use permit for a charter school, kindergarten through eighth grade, in the 30,466 square foot building and for a new playground. This site is designated for neighborhood commercial use but a school can be permitted with a Process Three CUP. Process Three requires a Hearing Officer hearing (public meeting) and subsequent decision by the officer.

ACIC (Afghan Community Islamic Center) CUP Renewal, Process Three, at 3333 Sandrock Road – The presentation at the February 2013 SMPG meeting indicated the following items were being requested: 1) 10 year CUP, 2) Add additional capacity during the week (primary purpose is for funerals), and 3) Education Center for youth. No interior and exterior modification is requested.

***Serra Mesa Community Council Welcomes  
July / August New and Renewed Members***

Carmen Anderson	Donna Grauel	M. Gloria Riggs
Marilyn Atwood	Chuck & Joan Grauerholz	Allen & Louise Robinson *
Harry & Mary Baldwin	Geoff & Julie Haslam *	Carol Roland
Rex & Linda Biggs	Charlotte Hasson	Stanley & Beverly Skoff
Irene Broyles	Cynthia Henkel	Ted & Terri Strait *
Debbie Campbell *	Michael Herrin **	Gerald & Ruth Tremper
Eudora Carlson	Cyril & Joyce Hines	Dean & Carol Warner *
James Chism *	Tom & Kathy Hurd	Jeannine Whitworth
Michael & Janice Conroy	John & Marcia Inlow *	Vona Wiens
Doris Darling	Joe Ippolito	Alice Wilker
George & Veronica DeLaBarre **	Frank Kloberdanz	John & Fernie Willard *
Jo Duda *	Larry & Elaine Lindeen	Ron & Barbara Wills
Robert & Gail Eberly	Harry & Barbara Melkerson	
John & Kari Embree	Lloyd Montague	
Rick & Sue Ericson	Margaret Moody **	
Albert & Rachel Evans	Thomas & Alice Moran *	
Wayne & Sally Findlay	David & Rachelle Munz	
Dutch & Elouise Fisher	Steven Oschmann	
Kathleen Ford *	Julie & Earl Patterson	
Friars Road Pet Hospital *	Joe & Juanita Pegler *	
Sandra Gish	Robert Pipkin	
Eugene & Diane Goligoski	Carole Porter	
John Granlee	Gladys & Marvin Ramsey	

Donation: \*\*Benefactor    \*Sponsor

Observer Renewal

When it is time to renew your Observer, the renewal date is highlighted and stamped, "to be renewed."

Also, a postcard will be mailed and, if possible, a phone call is made to remind you. It is greatly appreciated if you pay as soon as you notice it's time to renew.

Maybe you have a special neighbor that you'd like to say "thank you" to, or maybe you have a new neighbor that you'd like to say "welcome." We highly recommend giving a subscription to the Observer (six editions/year). A post card will be sent to the recipient.

Please fill out the enclosed form and send it with your check to P.O. Box 23315,  
San Diego, CA. 92193.

## Agenda for October 17 Meeting

continued from page 10

Amendments to the Hickman Fields General Development Plan, located in Kearny Mesa near REI. The plan includes additional sports fields, a recreation center, a multi-use aquatic complex, pedestrian and vehicular circulation, parking, security and parking lot lighting, children's play area and comfort stations/concession stands. According to the Serra Mesa Facilities Financing Plan (guide to public facility spending) Serra Mesa is expected to contribute 10% of the total cost.

### Continuing Items

**Cabrillo Heights Park Fields:** SMPG received a response from the City regarding our request for fees from the Broadstone Kearny Mesa Project to completely redo the Cabrillo Heights fields to correct structural issues (e.g., irrigation system, cobble stones, etc). We're waiting for a legal determination.

**Rady Children's Hospital Construction:** A 67,000 s.f. building to replace the bungalows is proposed for use for office and meeting rooms. The project is going through a Substantial Conformance Review which means staff can approve the project. Rady's would work with the community and the contractors to reduce traffic and parking impacts on the community.

**Management Assessment Districts (MAD):** Description: "A Maintenance Assessment District (MAD) is a legal mechanism by which property owners can vote to assess themselves to receive enhanced maintenance, landscaping, and lighting services. These services are above and beyond the City's baseline general services." The amount will vary with each MAD and the needs of the community. The community determines their needs. There's a very involved process described at <http://www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/pdf/madformationhandout.pdf>. and <http://www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/general-info/mads/mad4.shtml>.

Comments from residents to the Serra Mesa Community Council indicate a concern about the deterioration of Serra Mesa and an interest in rejuvenation. SMPG decided to form a committee to make a recommendation about proceeding with a community discussion and the process for this discussion. If you are interested in participating, please email [smpg@serramesa.org](mailto:smpg@serramesa.org).

### Other

Broadstone at Kearny Mesa – With the development of the project at the southwest corner of Aero and Sandrock the pork chop (free right turn) is being removed. It will be replaced by a dedicated right turn. As we understand it the City has a policy to remove pork chops due to speed and pedestrian safety issues.

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## **BROADSTONE KEARNY MESA: PROJECT OVERVIEW**

Broadstone Kearny Mesa is comprised of a 7.52-acre site and will contain 360 residential apartments with 5,000 SF of supporting retail. The property will offer a full amenity package, including 11 fully landscaped courtyards and a resort-style pool with a resident's club. The property will consist of one bedroom and two bedroom apartment units in a 3-4 story "wrap" style building, with four stories of wood-framed apartments wrapping an internal parking structure. The architecture is inspired by the historically rich context of the neighborhood, with homages to aviation, industrial, and mid-century residential styles.

In addition to the 600 feet of landscaped frontage on Aero Drive, the building form has been designed with several "pocket-courtyards". This limits the horizontal dimension of a particular façade, helping to break up the overall building massing with such relief. Additionally, the building is designed with multiple "green-building" features and will achieve a highly coveted LEED certification— one of the highest certifications granted to projects adhering to a concise framework for identifying and implementing practical and measurable green building design, construction, operations and maintenance solutions.

## FRIENDS OF RUFFIN CANYON

Week of Hope, a faith-based organization which offers young people experience doing community service away from home brought great volunteers to us intermittently all summer. In fact, we had more offers of help from outside organizations than we had FRC volunteers who could lead them. We are looking for more volunteers from our own neighborhood in Serra Mesa to help as well, please contact us and leave a message at (858) 565-2473 if you like to help out. Sometimes Monica Fuentes takes the volunteers around the streets of Serra Mesa to pick up litter.

The native butterfly garden at Taft made it through the summer looking and smelling beautiful. Come visit, you may find plants you would like in your own landscape.

What's the secret to drought tolerance in native plants? Mycorrhizae from soil fungus make physical connection with the roots of plants in dry, nutrient poor soil. Plants provide carbohydrates from photosynthesis in exchange for water and nutrients brought up by the fungus. If plants are watered too much, it no longer needs water from the fungus, and throws it off to conserve its own carbohydrates. Then the plant starves for nutrients and has no protection from drought. To preserve the mycorrhizae, native plant gardeners disturb the soil as little as possible. Don't weed with a spade and dig only enough space for the root ball when we put in transplants.

The 29th Annual Coastal Cleanup Day is coming up on Saturday, September 21st from 9 a.m. – 12 noon. Of course you can volunteer at any of 90 cleanup sites in San Diego County; we will be hosting an event here in Serra Mesa with dumpsters at Taft. If you are able to participate please bring your own refillable water bottle, gloves, and bucket to avoid adding your own trash to the collection. Prizes and fame will be awarded for the best decorated buckets. Go to [www.cleanupday.org](http://www.cleanupday.org) to register and read details.

FRC thinks it is time to revisit the possibility of a trail in Ruffin Canyon. Last spring it was approved by our Planning Group, but the San Diego River Conservancy got the idea that the neighborhood didn't want a trail and the funding went elsewhere. FRC believes there is strong support for the project, which can get even stronger with more time to address concerns. State funding is still available. It is time we had something special here to make Serra Mesa a destination. Go to [www.sdrc.ca.gov](http://www.sdrc.ca.gov) for information on the San Diego River Ruffin Canyon Trail & Urban Walk.

Bonnie Hough for FRC



## SERRA MESA-KEARNY MESA BRANCH LIBRARY

### September/October, 2013 Events/Programs

#### Adult Programs

**Art Exhibits** – The Friends of the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Branch Library present an exhibit of Chinese Brush paintings by Marilee Hong in the Community Room.

**Lobby Showcases** – The Action Figure Collection of George Dixon will be in the display cases.

**Zumba® Dance/Toning Fitness – Mondays & Thursdays, 1:00 p.m.** The Zumba® Fitness program fuses Latin rhythms with easy-to-follow moves. Monday's class includes a half hour of Zumba Dance and a half hour of toning.

**Zumba® Gold Fitness – Wednesdays, 1:30 p.m.** The Zumba® Gold Fitness program fuses Latin rhythms with easy-to-follow moves. This class is designed for beginners and active seniors.

**September 3, 5:00 p.m. Friends of the Library Meeting.** Join members of your community to discuss ways to support the library.

**September 10, 6:45 p.m. Serra Mesa Library Book Club.** Join members of your community to discuss *Minding Frankie* by Maeve Binchy.

**September 13, 1:00 p.m. Finding Hidden Jobs.** This workshop by the San Diego Metro Career Center teaches you how and where to search for jobs that are not posted.

**September 15, 2:00 p.m. Music on the Mesa: The Bunnell Strings.** Come and enjoy Classical and Contemporary music in a concert which is free and open to the entire family.

**September 24, 6:00 p.m. E-Reader Clinic.** Bring your electronic reader devices and learn how to download and view library ebooks.

**September 27, 1:00 p.m. Labor Market Websites.** Learn how to search the best labor market websites in this workshop offered by the San Diego Metro Career Center.

**September 22, 1:30 p.m. San Diego Folk Song Society.** Join the folk song circle and enjoy free, live music.

**October 11, 1:00 p.m. Cover Letters & More.** This workshop by the San Diego Metro Career Center teaches you how to write the perfect cover letter to your resume.

**October 8, 6:45 p.m. Serra Mesa Library Book Club.** Join members of your community to discuss *Nothing Daunted* by Dorothy Wickenden.

**October 20, 2:00 p.m. Music on the Mesa: The Bassett Brothers.** Come and enjoy free music in a concert which is open to the entire family.

**October 25, 1:00 p.m. Career Assessment Tools.** Learn how to identify your best skills in this workshop offered by the San Diego Metro Career Center.

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## **SERRA MESA-KEARNY MESA BRANCH LIBRARY**

**October 22, 6:00 p.m. E-Reader Clinic.** Bring your electronic reader devices and learn how to download and view library ebooks.

**October 23, 6:30 p.m. Serra Mesa Community Council.** A meeting to provide information and act as a forum for identifying and solving community issues.

**October 27, 1:30 p.m. San Diego Folk Song Society.** Join the folk song circle and enjoy free, live music.

### **Children Programs**

**Kids Night with Hopscotch Tiny Tots – Tuesdays, 4:30 p.m.** Join Miss Kim for music, stories, arts and crafts in a program which is ideal for toddlers and pre-schoolers.

**Homework Help – Tuesdays, 6:00 p.m.** The library offers free tutoring and homework help every Wednesday evening for children ages 5 and up.

**Preschool Storytime – Fridays, 10:00 a.m.** Join Grandma Patti for our very popular story time, which is perfect for pre-schoolers and their families.

**September 4 & 18, 4:00 p.m. Lego Builder Club.** Join us to build Lego creations that will be displayed in the library.

**September 9, 23 & 30 10:30 a.m. Preschool Craft.** Join us for a fun, easy-to-make children's craft.

**September 12, 19 & 26, 10:00 a.m. Music Time for Kids with Cowboy Bob.** Come dance with Cowboy Bob as he introduces music and instruments in a show appropriate for all ages.

**September 16, 10:30 a.m. Yoga Storytime for Kids.** Toddlers will hear stories and songs while learning yoga poses.

**October 2 & 16, 4:00 p.m. Lego Builder Club.** Join us to build Lego creations that will be displayed in the library.

**October 7 & 21, 10:30 a.m. Yoga Storytime for Kids.** Toddlers will hear stories and songs while learning yoga poses.

**October 10, 17, 24 & 31, 10:00 a.m. Music Time for Kids with Cowboy Bob.** Come dance with Cowboy Bob as he introduces music and instruments in a show appropriate for all ages.

**October 14 & 28, 10:30 a.m. Preschool Craft.** Join us for a fun, easy-to-make children's craft.

# A LONG AWAITED HIT SERRA MESA'S CONCERT IN THE PARK

The Serra Mesa Community Council presented its long awaited and highly anticipated Concert in the Park, at Cabrillo Heights Park on Sunday, August 11th, 2013.

The hour 4 long event featured live entertainment by the Siers Brothers, dancing, a packed lawn full of concert onlookers, a sea of picnickers with canopies and the councils' booth vending Serra Mesa 92123 tees and tanks – was open to all.

A rock and standards cover band, the Siers Brothers have spent many years in the San Diego music scene and have been together since the early 1980's. When it comes to cover bands, versatility is the key to success...and if there is any San Diego band that can hold it down, it's these guys.

The concert is the brainchild of 4 board members on the council; Debbie Campbell, Elizabeth Rice, Andrea Eaton and Annemieke Frost. They spearheaded the effort to make their community more united and give the neighborhood an all around good time under the sun. Sponsored by the SMCC, The San Diego Chargers and Greyling Dental...putting true meaning behind the expression Sunday Funday.

By: Elizabeth Rice  
Media/Marketing Coordinator  
Serra Mesa Community Council





Answer from page 8...

The labyrinth is located on the space in front of the Gethsemane Lutheran Church. Stop by 2696 Melbourne (off Shawn Avenue from Mission Village Drive) and check it out. I asked the minister, Gloria Espeseth (also Board Member of SM Community Council), to tell us what that's about: "The labyrinth at Gethsemane was laid in 2002 using good old Serra Mesa rocks which surfaced when the ground was leveled for a building project in 2001. We used a pattern from a book on labyrinths and only had one misstep leading to a dead end. There was an easy fix to enable the walk to flow as it was designed to. We placed the labyrinth on the unused front lot so that the community could be welcomed and feel comfortable using it 24/7. Because we had a sizeable space, the path is wide enough for more than one person to use it at a time. It is a bit rustic and uneven so comfortable shoes are recommended."

A labyrinth is not a maze...it is a path leading to a center with one way in and out. If you trust the path, you will walk to the center and then back out. Labyrinths have been found in ancient ruins with the oldest one in a Christian church dating from the 13th century in the Cathedral in Chartes, France. While many people use them for prayer and meditation, walking the labyrinth can be used for taking time to think through a problem or take time to celebrate a goodness in your life. The people of Gethsemane invite anyone who is interested to visit and walk the labyrinth.

Also I had asked if anyone knew the creator of those stacked rocks. And Luther Handshy, who lives on Sandrock Road, responded: "The rocks were stacked by my neighbor Steve Zalfen. He puts them back up when the kids knock them down. Steve also put the rings around the base of the palm trees."

Thanks Luther and Steve (here he is on site).




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## **SERRA MESA FALL ARTS AND CRAFT FAIR AT CITY VIEW CHURCH**

Saturday, October 26

9:00-3:00 p.m.

City View Church (formerly First Assembly)  
8404 Phyllis Place—off the 805  
San Diego, CA 92123

This fall craft fair will bring together over 50 artists from all over San Diego County, offering beautiful handmade crafts and arts just in time for the holiday season! Crafters and artists are invited to purchase a 10×10 space. Food trucks and vendors are also welcome to register for a space as well.

Please go to [www.cityviewsd.com/craftfair](http://www.cityviewsd.com/craftfair) to register and for complete details.

The deadline to register is October 15.

## SMCC Subscription Application or Renewal Form & Interest/Volunteer Survey

If you are interested in being contacted about any of the organizations listed below and/or you wish to receive a bi-monthly newsletter **or renew** your subscription, please fill out the following information. Return this form to the Serra Mesa Community Council, PO Box 23315, San Diego, CA 92193.

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

**Subscription Form** - Enclosed is my check payable to the Serra Mesa Community Council to subscribe at the following level:

Household (\$15) \_\_\_ Sponsor (\$25) \_\_\_ Benefactor (\$50) \_\_\_

**How did you hear about us?** \_\_\_\_\_

Need More Information	Want to Volunteer	Brief Description of Serra Mesa Organizations
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Community Council.</b> Sponsors clean-ups, publishes newsletter, liaison between elected officials & the community, meets 10 times/yr. Volunteers needed: Board & special projects. Commitment: varies.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Planning Group.</b> Advises the City on the Serra Mesa Community Plan and land use issues. Volunteers needed. Trained & indemnified by the City. Commitment: 3.5 hours/month.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Recreation Council.</b> Plans, promote, publicizes & helps provide recreation opportunities for citizens in Serra Mesa. Volunteers needed: Council. No training needed. Commitment: 1.5 hour/month
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Enhancement Committee.</b> Sends educational letters to residents requesting code compliance. Promotes community improvement. Trained & indemnified by the City. Commitment: 3 hours/month.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Friends of the Library.</b> Provides summer reading program, extra books & tapes, & sponsors special library events for the Serra Mesa Library. Volunteers needed: Board. Commitment: 5 hours/month.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Friends of Ruffin Canyon.</b> Friends of Ruffin Canyon removes invasive non native plants from the canyon and replaces them with natives.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Serra Mesa Food Pantry.</b> Staff the Food Pantry, pick up donated food, coordinate food drives, organize community sponsors. Commitment: varies.

To volunteer for one of the groups listed below call 858-565-2473.

**Churches.** Volunteer needs, training, & commitment varies with each church.

**Education & PTAs.** Volunteers needed: school based parent groups, readers/listeners in the schools, & various projects at schools. Training & commitment varies with activity.

**Sports** (Soccer, Baseball, Basketball). Volunteers needed: referees, managers, coaches, scorekeepers, etc. Training & commitment varies with activity.

**Youth Activities** (Girls Scouts, Boy Scouts, etc.). Volunteers needed: leaders, sponsors, & volunteers for special activities. Training provided. Commitment varies.

**Views concerning the present and future Serra Mesa.** Please attach a sheet with issues, suggested goals, and suggestions.

**Skills/Experience/Interests.** Sometimes an organization needs specialized help. If you wish to volunteer, then please attach a sheet with a list of your skills/experiences.

# Serra Mesa Enhancement Committee

The role of the Serra Mesa Enhancement Committee (SMEC) is to provide information, education, cooperation, and assistance in the area of City Code Compliance. After confirming a code violation SMEC sends a friendly, educational letter asking for compliance. In 90% of the cases people come into compliance and cases are not reported to the City. If you have a problem in your area, report the problem with this confidential form.

## Request for Investigation

**Return form to:** Serra Mesa Enhancement Committee,  
Post Office Box 23315, San Diego, California 92193

Please investigate this address \_\_\_\_\_

This is the problem: (give complete details; time of day, license plate of vehicles, type of vehicles, condition of property, owner's or renter's name if known etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(Please use back if necessary.)

Your name (will not be disclosed) \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Day Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone \_\_\_\_\_

===== for office use =====

ID# \_\_\_\_\_ Area \_\_\_\_\_ Contacted complainant \_\_\_\_\_

Complaint Referred to (specify date)	Action Steps (specify date)
_____ Code Compliance	Second Checker: No Violation, Close _____ Violation _____
_____ Community Policing	_____
_____ Signs	1st Letter: _____
_____ Tree Division	Second Checker: No Violation, Close _____ Violation _____
_____ Vector Control	_____
_____ Vehicle Abatement	2nd Letter: _____
_____ Weeds	Second Checker: No Violation, Close _____ Violation _____
_____ Other	_____
	Thank You: _____ Reopen Previous Case: _____



**SERRA MESA Community Council Presents...**  
[www.serramesa.org](http://www.serramesa.org)

# Movie Night! **FREE!**

**Food Truck at 5pm**  
**Movie at 7pm**

**Saturday,**  
**Sept 21**



**At Cabrillo**  
**Heights Park**  
**8308 Hurlbut St**  
**Serra Mesa**

### **Food drive!**

Bring non-perishable food to  
donate to the Serra Mesa  
Food Pantry!



*Serra Mesa Observer*  
Editor: *Ronda Adams*  
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San Diego, CA 92193

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SERRA MESA Community Council Presents...  
[www.serramesa.org](http://www.serramesa.org)

## Movie Night! **FREE!**

"SAVE THE DATE"

**Saturday,  
Sept 21**

**Food Truck at 5pm  
Movie at 7pm**



FROM THE CREATORS OF **ICE AGE**

**At Cabrillo  
Heights Park  
8308 Hurlbut St  
Serra Mesa**

### **Food drive!**

Bring non-perishable food to  
donate to the Serra Mesa  
Food Pantry!

